



Public Trust Doctrine

- The Public Trust Doctrine holds that certain natural resources, such as water, fish, and wildlife, are held in trust by the government for the people.
- As a public trust resource, wildlife are owned by *everyone*. People are referred to as the *Beneficiaries* of the Public Trust.
- There should be equitable opportunities to enjoy these resources.

Public Trust Roles and Responsibilities

	<u>Trustee</u>	<u>Trust Manager</u>	<u>Beneficiary</u>	<u>Trust</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elected or appointed officials Lawmaking or “sideboard setting” role Responsible for making decisions and providing direction to Trust Managers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trust professionals Executive or “implementation” role Responsible for soliciting input from beneficiaries to inform Trustee decisions Responsible for implementing Trustee decisions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The public for whom the trust or asset is managed Responsible for providing input to Trust Managers to inform Trustee decisions Responsible for holding trustees accountable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The resources being managed for the Beneficiaries
<u>US Govt.</u> USFWS, USGS, BLM, USFS, etc.	Congress ...and in some cases, the President or his appointees.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President Secretary Professionals Experts Public Servants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The People Citizens Voters Advocacy Groups Special Interest Groups NGOs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$\$ Fish & Wildlife Outdoor Recreation Access Land & Water Resources
<u>State Govt.</u> Fish and Wildlife Agencies	Legislature ...and in some cases, the Governor or his/her appointees, e.g., a Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governor Director Professionals Experts Public Servants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The People Citizens Voters Advocacy Groups Special Interests 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$\$ Fish & Wildlife Outdoor Recreation Access Land & Water Resources



The North American Model

The North American Model of Wildlife Conservation is the world's most successful system of policies and laws to restore and safeguard fish and wildlife and their habitats through sound science and active management.

How does the Model work?

In the United States and Canada, the Model operates on seven interdependent principles:

1. Wildlife resources are conserved and held in trust for all citizens.
2. Commerce in dead wildlife is eliminated.
3. Wildlife is allocated according to democratic rule of law.
4. Wildlife may only be killed for a legitimate, non-frivolous purpose.
5. Wildlife is an international resource.
6. Every person has an equal opportunity under the law to participate in hunting and fishing.
7. Scientific management is the proper means for wildlife conservation.